

percent of public schools need to be upgraded or repaired. The harsh reality is that the average age of school buildings in the United States is nearly 50 years.

Too often, our children visit ultra-modern shopping malls and gleaming sports arenas on weekends, but during the week go to school in rundown or antiquated facilities. This sends exactly the wrong message to our young people about our priorities. We have to do better.

That is why I am deeply grateful to the professionals and parents in the West Harrison Community School District. There is no question that a quality public education for every child is a top priority in that community. I salute them, and wish them a very successful new school year.●

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF GENERAL MOTORS

● Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I have the distinct honor of rising today to commemorate the 100th anniversary of a true Michigan success story, the founding of General Motors Corporation. It was 100 years ago this month that a man named Billy Durant who, after years in the horse-drawn carriage business, founded General Motors in Flint, MI. Durant had taken the helm at a small motor car company called Buick, and, in September 1908, incorporated it into General Motors. Under his stewardship, Buick became the best-selling brand in the world, affording Durant the opportunity to buy a number of other small companies including Oldsmobile, Cadillac, and the company that would eventually be known as Pontiac. Later he started Chevrolet and brought it into General Motors as well.

Over the century that followed its incorporation, GM would become the largest company in the world, driven by the goal articulated by Alfred Sloan, president of GM in the 1920s and 1930s, to build "a car for every purse and purpose." In that pursuit, the company time and again originated innovations that continue to benefit consumers to this day, ranging from the closed-body car, 1910, to the electric starter, 1912, to mass-produced automatic transmissions, 1940, to pollution controls, 1963, to airbags, 1973, to the catalytic converter, 1974.

But the intertwined nature of the company with this nation's economic growth extends far beyond innovative technological contributions and even beyond balance sheets and metrics for economic growth.

You can ask just about anyone, "What's the heartbeat of America?" And years after that slogan last passed across our television screens, people still know the answer is Chevrolet. And of course many Americans heeded the good advice to "See the USA in your Chevrolet." Cadillac has become a ubiquitous synonym for quality. The Pontiac GTO defined an era of muscle cars. The legendary "409" block engine became an American icon.

During the Second World War, GM provided more than \$12 billion of goods to support the Allied effort, more than any other company. The company also played critical roles in the navigation system that sent Americans to the moon for the first time, and designed and built the lunar rover, which was used by astronauts to travel around the Moon in subsequent trips.

Today, GM employs more than 250,000 people, and in 2007 sold nearly 9.37 million cars and trucks. And its next century is filled with promise. As the GM marketing team has noted, in 2008 we are in the middle of an American revolution.

The company that helped to make Michigan the arsenal of Democracy is working on fuel cells that can make help break our democracy's dependence on foreign oil. The company that invented the electric starter is going to be a leader in bringing a plug-in hybrid, the Volt, to consumers. The company that brought consumers the first automatic transmission is striving to bring consumers the first zero-emissions commute.

I offer my congratulations to the entire GM family on 100 remarkable years, and wish them all the best in keeping the pedal to the metal for 100 more.●

LIBERTY BAPTIST CHURCH 125TH ANNIVERSARY

● Mrs. LINCOLN. Mr. President, it is with great joy that today I recognize the 125th anniversary of Liberty Baptist Church located in the northwest Arkansas town of Dutch Mills in Washington County along the historic Butterfield Stagecoach Route.

According to its members, Liberty Baptist was built in 1883 by the founding families—Kimbrough, Bryant, Douthit, Fields, Greer, Grisham, Holman, Hodges, McCarty, and Seay—of what was then known as Hermansburg, AR. In fact, Rufus Seay, the husband of Jennie Kimbrough and son-in-law to Thomas Kimbrough, donated the land for the church, and the Kimbrough, McCarty, English, Seay, Holland, Patterson, and Hodges families funded the construction. It was a community effort as the men built the church and the women provided food and encouragement.

While much has changed since Liberty Baptist's doors opened in 1883, the community spirit and spiritual nourishment provided by Liberty Baptist Church remain a foundation for the citizens of Dutch Mills.

Liberty Baptist will commemorate its anniversary the week of November 2 through 9 with community events and activities. Although I will be unable to attend the festivities, I want to take this opportunity to extend my congratulations and recognize them on this glorious occasion.●

CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF 4-H IN ARKANSAS

● Mrs. LINCOLN. Mr. President, tomorrow evening, Arkansas 4-H will cap a year long celebration, "Honoring the Past, Celebrating the Future," at the 4-H Centennial gala in Little Rock, AR. Nearly 1 year ago, on October 1, 2007, the 4-H Centennial Celebration kicked off in Searcy, AR, located in White County, where Arkansas 4-H began.

Founded as a boys' corn and cotton club in 1908, Arkansas 4-H soon expanded to include girls' canning clubs and is now one of the largest youth development programs in Arkansas. The mission of 4-H is to provide opportunities for youth to acquire knowledge, develop life skills, form attitudes, and practice behavior that will enable them to become self-directing, productive, and contributing members of society.

It is exemplified in the pledge every Arkansas 4-Her recites: I pledge my Head to clearer thinking; my Heart to greater loyalty; my Hands to larger service; my Health to better living for my club, my community, my country, and my world.

Mr. President, what great words to live by.

Approximately 133,000 young people, in all 75 Arkansas counties, participate in Arkansas 4-H clubs. Arkansas 4-H carries out its mission across our diverse State in inner cities, suburbs, and rural communities. It seeks to break barriers among our youth by focusing on a philosophy of learning by doing.

Associated with the University of Arkansas's Division of Agriculture, through the Cooperative Extension Service, 4-H members can select activities in 82 project areas from automotive and clothing to space camp and show horse competitions. In addition, Arkansas 4-H youth receive more than \$80,000 in college scholarships each year at the State level for their 4-H work.

So as Arkansas 4-H culminates its year long celebration, I want to extend my congratulations on a tremendous 100 years and wish 4-H the best for another 100 years.

I would also like to take this time to recognize the over 40 clubs statewide that joined the Centennial Club Circle to help fund centennial activities this year. They include the following:

Garland County Teen Leader Club, Garland County; Busy Beavers 4-H Club, Pope County; Elkins 4-H Club, Washington County; Galloping Clovers, Yell County; Fusion 4-H Club, Columbia County; Town & Country 4-H Club, Benton County; Bear Pride 4-H Club, White County; Yellowjackets 4-H Club, Grant County; Rocky Top 4-H Club, Crawford County; 4-H Soaring Eagles Group, Cross County; Perry County Teen Leaders, Perry County; Vilonia 4-H Club, Faulkner County; Centerton 4-H Club, Benton County; Pastoria 4-H Club, Jefferson County; Western Wranglers 4-H Horse & Pony Club, Lawrence

County; Alpena 4-H Club, Boone County; Monette Buffalo Island 4-H Club, Craighead County; Lakeside 4-H Club, Sevier County; Gaither-Valley 4-H Club, Boone County; Olvey 4-H Club, Boone County; Decatur 4-H Club, Benton County; Gravette Gleamers-4-H, Benton County; Chambers 4-H Club, Crawford County; Hilltop Kids 4-H Club, Pope County; Carnall 4-H Club, Sebastian County; Franklin County 4-H Shooting Sports Club, Franklin County; Hurricane Creek 4-H Club, Franklin County; Franklin County Teen Leaders Club, Franklin County; Pulaski County Teen Leaders Club, Pulaski County; Berryville 4-H Club, Carroll County; Atkins 4-H Club, Pope County; Shining Stars 4-H Club, Clark County; Salem Superstars 4-H Club, Saline County; Chapel Hill 4-H Club, Sevier County; Spirit of 76 4-H Club, Arkansas County; Batesville Pioneer 4-H Club, Independence County; Hector 4-H Club, Pope County; El Paso 4-H Club, White County; Towers 4-H Club, Union County; Magic Clovers 4-H Club, Saline County; Lion's Pride 4-H Club, White County; Johnson County 4-H Teen Leaders Club, Johnson County; Hasbrook Road 4-H Club, Craighead County; Bethlehem 4-H Club, Columbia County; H&S Dream Makers, Dallas County; Small Stockers & More 4-H Club, Marion County; Columbia County Livestock 4-H Club, Columbia County; Haskell 4-H Club, Saline County; Prairie Grove 4-H Club, Washington County; Greene County 4-H Livestock Club, Greene County; Greene County 4-H Club, Greene County; Hickory 4-H Club, Cross County; Boone County 4-H Sharpshooters, Boone County; Phillips County 4-H Club, Phillips County; L'eau Frais 4-H Club, Clark County; Dayton 4-H Club, Sebastian County; White County 4-H Leaders Association, White County; Mountaineers 4-H Club, Franklin County; 4-H Busy Beavers, Yell County; Lee County 4-H Club, Lee County; Conway County 4-H Foundation, Conway County; Caney Creek 4-H Club, Conway County; Conway County Livestock Club, Conway County; Hattieville Community 4-H Club, Conway County; Heritage Run Homeschool 4-H Club, Conway County; Latino 4-H Club, Conway County; Lucky Clovers 4-H Club, Conway County; Morrilton High School HOFNOD 4-H Club, Conway County; Nemo Vista Pioneers 4-H Club, Conway County; South of the River 4-H Club, Conway County; Trailblazers 4-H Club, Conway County; Union Chapel 4-H Club, Conway County; Wonderview High School 4-H Club, Conway County; and Viola Loyal Longhorn 4-H Club, Fulton County.●

HONORING DORIS J. JOHNSON

● Mrs. LINCOLN. Mr. President, yesterday morning I met Doris Johnson of West Memphis, AR, who was selected by Experience Works as the recipient of the 2008 Changing Lives Award for Outstanding Senior Community Serv-

ice Employment Program, SCSEP, Participant. I want to congratulate Mrs. Johnson on receiving this award and changing her life through participation in the SCSEP.

Prior to her participation in the program, Mrs. Johnson's sole work experience was helping to run her family's sheet metal shop business for nearly 45 years. She managed many of the day-to-day office tasks which included sending and receiving invoices on behalf of the business. Unfortunately, in 1986, her husband's health began to deteriorate, and she suffered a heart attack herself. It was at this time that their son began running the company until it was eventually sold, when her husband passed away in 1996.

After her heart attack, Mrs. Johnson was not employed for nearly 20 years. In fact, her husband's death was very painful, and she rarely visited friends or ventured out of the house. But at the age of 77, realizing she needed additional income just to make ends meet, she contacted Experience Works.

For those who are not aware, Experience Works is the Nation's oldest and largest provider of job training and employment opportunities for older Americans. Each year, Experience Works serves over 20,000 older workers and local communities through the SCSEP.

Shortly before her 78th birthday, Mrs. Johnson was placed with the Amazing Grace Thrift Shop on a training assignment. She quickly learned to sort and fold clothes, as well as price and sell items. In a short time, she and another SCSEP participant tripled the sales at the store.

She soon was encouraged to take a new job as a receptionist with the Arkansas Rehabilitation Service, ARS. It was not an easy transition, though. Mrs. Johnson suffered from hearing loss and was concerned about her ability to answer the phone. In addition, the phone system was rather intimidating, and she was unsure if she could adapt. The staff at ARS was impressed with her, though, and they worked to help her obtain new hearing aids. She was also a quick study during phone training. She not only developed the skills to become a good receptionist but also took the initiative to take a phone list home so that she could learn employee names and extensions. Her work ethic, people skills, and ability to learn new task set her apart. In fact, her training supervisor has requested that she become the office assistant.

It has certainly made a difference in Mrs. Johnson's life. She says, "Being in the program has made a complete turnaround in my life." She displays a newfound confidence, and with some extra income, has returned to becoming an active senior.

Mrs. Johnson, I want you to know that you are an inspiration, not only to me and my colleagues but to the millions of seniors around our great State and across this country. Thank you for all you do, and good luck in your future endeavors.●

HONORING EDWARD R. JOHNSON

● Mrs. LINCOLN. Mr. President, yesterday morning I met Edward Johnson of Springdale, AR, who was selected by Experience Works, the Nation's oldest and largest provider of job training and employment opportunities for older Americans, as the 2008 Outstanding Older Worker from the State of Arkansas. I want to take this opportunity to congratulate Mr. Johnson on receiving this award and thank him for his steadfast service to our country and my home State of Arkansas.

More than 60 years ago, as an 18-year-old young man, Mr. Johnson enlisted in the U.S. Army. Over the next 30 years, he served our country in outposts from Japan and Korea to the Panama Canal and Vietnam. Upon his honorable discharge in 1978, he had earned the rank of sergeant major.

Without knowing what his next step in life would be, Mr. Johnson went to his local employment office to apply for unemployment benefits. Upon arriving, he found his second calling and began a second 30-year career as the local veterans representative in the Fayetteville office for the Arkansas Department of Workforce Services, DWS. In this capacity, Mr. Johnson has assisted countless veterans find employment and helped disabled veterans find uses for their unique talents. He has said that the pleasure of putting veterans to work and their excitement when hired is what motivates him.

Throughout his service, he has become like a father figure and invaluable member of the DWS staff. It is not uncommon for him to go above and beyond to assist in a variety of capacities around the office. He is known to mentor new employees, especially veterans in the work/study program, and takes it upon himself to recognize colleagues with awards when they provide an outstanding level of service.

At the age of 78, Mr. Johnson is showing no signs of slowing down, either. He continues to learn how to use the newest technology needed to perform his job. He also likes to treat the staff by grilling hamburgers and hotdogs in the parking lot or bringing in his wife's homemade soup.

Beyond his work, Mr. Johnson is a valuable member of his community. He is a 23-year member of the Noon Lions Club, where he served as president from 1988 to 1989, and in 1999, he served as the Rogers-Lowell Chamber of Commerce Ambassador of the Year.

In closing, I want Mr. Johnson to know that he is an inspiration, not only to me and my colleagues but to the millions of seniors around our great State and across this country. We are thankful for his many contributions.●

TRIBUTE TO BOB FELLER

● Mr. VOINOVICH. Mr. President, today I honor and congratulate an outstanding community member, distinguished veteran of World War II and